

SUBJECT: Preventive Medicine Update

All,

The summer has hit us quickly and our Operational Tempo has not relented. There have been many significant moves within our ranks and also some noteworthy events have transpired that I will inform you of today.

I will begin by expressing my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to MSG Mildred Cintron and MSG Theresa Eves, both of whom have officially retired from our Active Duty ranks. MSG Cintron has left Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) where she had served as the Senior Preventive Medicine NCO for both BAMC and the Great Plains Regional Medical Command. MSG Eves retired as the Senior Preventive NCO in the 2nd Brigade at Ft Hood, Texas, with multiple deployments under her belt in support of OIF. Preventive Medicine has lost two incredibly dedicated and committed senior NCOs. Good luck to both of you as you begin your new life as civilians!

The SFC, MSG and CSM/SGM board dates have been officially announced by Human Resources Command (HRC). You all should have this information in hand now and be well on your way to ensuring your photo is updated and current and your ERB is squared away. We have the potential for 4 or 5 NCOs to be selected to MSG in our MOS. Your effort in preparing your records now will make or break your chances for selection. On the same note, our SFC selection rate should also produce positive numbers as our senior NCO damn will break and NCOs will move up.

Presently, SGM Skyers and I have accepted our records to be reviewed for Command Sergeant Major. If selected, we will leave Preventive Medicine and HRC, along with the AMEDD, must select our replacements at the CSM/SGM board that is in session. With any luck, we will move into Command in 2005 within the AMEDD and two MSG's will replace us as Preventive Medicine SGMs. Add to this the fact that MSG White is presently PCSing from Hawaii to the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Class 55, and you have added an additional MSG vacancy to fill from within our NCO Corps.

MSG Hamre has arrived at William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC) at Ft Bliss, Texas and has taken charge of the mission there. MSG Ponzo is also PCSing next month and he will move into the vacant MSG position at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) in Washington, D.C. MSG Walton has received Assignment Instructions to Ft Hood, Texas to replace the now retired MSG Eves in the Medical Brigade. I am informed by HRC that he will retire in lieu of accepting the assignment. Good luck to MSG Walton as well. Again, another vacancy that HRC and the AMEDD will have to fill. I mentioned that MSG White is PCSing from Hawaii. HRC is presently looking for his replacement as well, but we have NO MSG's left to move! The board will provide a new crop of MSGs that will fill those vacancies I have mentioned. MSG Griffith, our newest MSG, will be PCSing from Ft Hood soon. I am informed by HRC

(and MSG Griffith) that he is hoping to receive the assignment MSG Cintron has vacated at BAMC on Ft Sam Houston.

Our MOS is growing within the AMEDD. The new alignment of the Division requires more 91S's be assigned to the movement Units within the Division. This translates to recruiting missions and our responsibility as NCOs to keep our soldiers in the Army. We presently have a reenlistment bonus of 1A for the N4 ASI and have projected three consecutive full (32 soldiers each) classes at Ft Sam Houston in our AIT. This is great news for our MOS but it places additional stress and pressure on our AMEDD Center and School staff to deliver quality instruction while multiple classes are in session. I have visited the 91S Instructors at the Academy and they are doing an outstanding job in a demanding work environment. For any NCO who has at least 36 months on station and believes they have what it takes to become an Instructor at the Academy, contact SGM Huertas at (210) 221-7518 for additional information and guidance on the procedure for requesting this assignment.

Our operation tempo is still very high. We have recurring 91S rotations to fill at Honduras, Eskan Village, Qatar, and within Special Operations and they impact each and every one of us in CONUS. We take from within our own ranks to fill these duties, decreasing our abilities to efficiently conduct our Garrison mission while supporting the War Fighter down range. You are all doing a great job! I do solicit for volunteers through the regional senior PM NCO but be aware; a volunteer MUST have complete Chain of Command approval, to include, the Regional CSM, before I will entertain the request. I rotate the missions so they are fairly distributed across our Army.

Our Special Operations NCO positions around the Army will soon become available, as many of the NCOs assigned to these positions will be rotating (promotions, extended time on station, etc.). Be aware we are looking for the independent operational NCO, SPC (P), SGT or SSG, that desires this type of challenge. You may communicate to me directly if you have at least 36 months on station and are interested, or with SFC Ricardo Augusto at (910) 396-1588, to receive the proper procedures and guidance to process your requests.

There are Preventive Medicine training events that I implore you all to get your soldiers to. The AMEDD Center and School has posted training events on my website as well as on their own website for your viewing. Pesticide Certification, Basic Industrial Hygiene Certification, Advanced Industrial Hygiene Certification (USACHPPM) and various other opportunities are available to your soldiers. Most, if not all, are centrally funded and will not cost your Command a dime. Train your soldiers while in a TDA assignment so that when they PCS to a TO&E assignment they are properly prepared to do the mission!

The N4 course is also available for your 91S's to attend. There are prerequisites that each soldier must meet and they can be found on my website as a link of interest. Be aware, a soldier who is trained as an N4 **will** PCS in route if they are not TDY and return to a VALID, VACANT N4 position at their Unit and Command.

I will close by echoing the words and feelings expressed by CSM Sandra Townsend, our MEDCOM CSM, “you are all doing a great job and our AMEDD is in top form because of all your hard work!”

Be safe and I will see you all at the Annual Force Health protection Conference in August.

Airborne!

SGM V